

She never sought glory or recognition for herself. Content to work behind the scenes, she strove to help Johnson Space Center and the entire NASA agency achieve greatness. Unlike astronauts or famous scientists, Sue rarely received the public recognition she so greatly deserved. But she did enjoy the respect, admiration, and love of those serving around her and within the Clear Lake community. Every time I've set foot in Clear Lake, I've heard folks sing Sue's praises.

A dedicated worker whose loyalty was legendary, a smart lady with vision for how things should be and the dedication to try to get there, Sue is a class act.

Her uncommon mixture of inspiration, commonsense and intellect will sorely be missed. But I am happy to know that she will now be focusing her attention on the more enjoyable and important things in life. Her time will now be spent at her beach house quilting and spending time with her husband and new grandchild. Sue, thanks for all your hard work and dedication. You are an inspiration to us all.

HONORING WAYNE SPRUELL

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 20, 2004

Mr. McHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Wayne Spruell, principal director for manpower and personnel, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, upon his retirement from Federal service and to thank him for his contributions to the United States of America over the past 36 years. Since graduating from the Virginia Military Institute in 1968, Mr. Spruell has served his country honorably and with great distinction in both the military and Federal civilian service.

His 3 years of active duty as a lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps included 18 months in the Republic of Vietnam. During this period he was awarded two Bronze Stars with combat device. Subsequent to his active duty, he completed 20 years in the Marine Corps Reserve, retiring in 1992 at the grade of lieutenant colonel.

Mr. Spruell's career as a Federal civilian employee began in the U.S. Customs Service and continued as an operations officer and intelligence analyst with the Central Intelligence Agency from 1972 until 1981. His assignments included overseas tours in Vietnam and Panama. In 1975, the CIA awarded him the Intelligence Star—an award for voluntary acts of courage performed under hazardous conditions or for outstanding achievements or services rendered with distinction under conditions of grave risk.

From 1981 until 1985, he had responsibility for the Army's individual training programs and then moved to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs as a program analyst. In recognition of his exceptional skill as a leader and manager, he was selected as the director for manpower programs, a position he held until 1994. Subsequently, his success and effectiveness as the principal director for manpower and personnel resulted

in his selection as a member of the Senior Executive Service in 1999.

Mr. Spruell is the leading expert within the Department of Defense on National Guard and reserve manpower and personnel matters. In that capacity he has been instrumental in many of the legislative and policy initiatives that have fundamentally reshaped America's reserve components. His contributions to the Reserve Officers Personnel Management Act, the Reserve Component GI Bill, and military technician reforms were especially noteworthy. He led the transformation of reserve personnel management and employment by removing statutory and policy barriers to allow for the seamless integration of the active and reserve components while accomplishing defense missions. In the wake of the events of September 11, 2001, Mr. Spruell was the architect of the Department's personnel policies and procedures for mobilized Guard and Reserve members.

Noteworthy as these accomplishments are, there are other aspects of Mr. Spruell's career that I believe deserve our respect and thanks. For one thing, Mr. Spruell is a consummate, constant professional who can be counted on always to both lead and to provide reliable, objective insight and assistance in all matters pertaining to reserve component personnel. For another, over the years he has helped my subcommittee and others in Congress immeasurably in shaping important legislation and as a result has made a difference for the better in the lives of many. In my view, however, Mr. Spruell's value to this Nation and to the men and women who serve it in uniform rests in his unhesitating, unselfish commitment to doing the best job he can in every way, without thought of formal recognition or gain. That kind of lifelong dedication and professionalism is what makes his service doubly worth recognition.

When he retires in January, the Department of Defense will sorely miss his leadership, knowledge and experience. A dedicated patriot, Mr. Spruell leaves a legacy of unquestionable successes, positive relationships, and a solid foundation for the future. I want to thank him, on behalf of my colleagues on the House Armed Services Committee, for all that he has given to the Nation and to wish him, his wife Lan, and family well in all their future endeavors.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF BELLEVILLE SHOE AND BELLEVILLE SHOE SOUTH

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 20, 2004

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a company that has spent 100 years making a name for itself and has been with our U.S. Armed Forces every step of the way. I am proud to recognize Belleville Shoe and Belleville Shoe South, Inc. in this Congress for their commitment to their community and all they do for our nation's soldiers.

While Belleville Shoe in Southwestern Illinois marks its 100th anniversary this year, Belleville Shoe South, based in DeWitt, Arkan-

sas, has been a part of the Belleville Shoe Manufacturing Company since spring of 2002. It was then that Belleville reopened the DeWitt shoe plant that had closed four months earlier; today that plant employs 650 people, pumping \$12 million in wages into the local economy annually.

Perhaps most important is the product the plant produces: boots for the U.S. Army. The plant's employees turn out an astonishing 3,600 boots each day for the Department of Defense and do so with a great deal of pride, knowing they are making shoes for America's military men and women.

Not surprisingly, much of the credit for Belleville's success belongs to the Weidmann family that has overseen the company since its creation in 1904. What started with William Weidmann in 1904 and has been passed down to the fourth generation in Eric Weidmann today has become a company that reflects the family that created it. Compassionate, unwavering and innovative.

Belleville Shoe has also improved the quality of life for many in DeWitt and the surrounding areas. The wages and benefits it offers exceed the area average; in fact, many employees have never had any benefits before working for Belleville. When a qualified labor pool in DeWitt began to dry up, Belleville hired two transportation companies to operate a van service to bring in about 100 employees from outlying areas to work at the plant.

On behalf of the Congress, I am honored to recognize Belleville Shoe and their contributions to the community they live in as well as the military community they serve so proudly. They are a shining example of what can transpire when a company treats its employees with respect, helps its community grow and creates a product that moves this country forward—one step at a time.

HONORING AND CONGRATULATING LACY AND DOROTHY HARBER

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 20, 2004

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to pay tribute to two outstanding citizens of Denison, Texas, and my dear friends, Lacy and Dorothy Harber, owners of American Bank of Texas and LJH Corporation.

Lacy and Dorothy recently received the Denison Area Chamber of Commerce Large Business Award for their efforts in uniting the community through business and employment opportunities. The State of Texas House of Representatives awarded them a Certificate of Recognition for this prestigious award.

Lacy and Dorothy have devoted their time, talent, and resources to numerous worthy projects in Denison and Grayson County. They are beloved and respected by all those who know them, and they have been vital to growth and development in Denison.

Mary Ellen and I feel very fortunate to count them as our friends, and I am very fortunate to be their Congressman. Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today, let us address in the House of Representatives these two exceptional leaders of the business world and generous people—Lacy and Dorothy Harber.